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Mexico

Grain and Feed

Mexico Initiates Antidumping Investigation Against U.S. White Rice 2000

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Report Highlights:

On December 11, 2000, the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development (SECOFI) announced the initiation of an investigation on dumping charges filed against U.S. long grain white rice exporters by the Mexican Rice Council.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1], MX

Introduction: This report summarizes an announcement published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on December 11, 2000.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary: On December 11, 2000, Mexico's Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development (SECOFI) announced in the "*Diario Oficial*" ("Federal Register") the initiation of an official anti-dumping investigation against U.S. long grain white rice. The investigation is in response to a petition submitted by the Mexican Rice Council. The official announcement did not include the immediate imposition of countervailing duties. At issue are U.S. market prices for long grain white rice. All interested parties have thirty (30) working days from the date of publication of this official announcement to respond to the questionnaires provided by SECOFI.

(FAS/Mexico Note: Historically, the timetable for the investigation, determination and final ruling on dumping cases in Mexico is relatively short. By most accounts, once the questionnaires are issued, U.S. respondents will have 30 working days to respond. Failure to provide and return the information required by SECOFI would be looked upon as a de facto guilty plea and would likely result in the establishment of large dumping margins. End Note)

Title: "Resolution to accept the request of the interested party and to begin the initial antidumping investigation is declared on imports of long grain white rice, merchandise classified in tariff code 1006.30.01 of the General Import Tax Law, originating in the United States of America, regardless of the country from which they were imported."

Type of Investigation: Initial Investigation on antidumping claims.

Important Dates

1. Publication Date: December 11, 2000

2. Effective Date: December 12, 2000

3. Start of Public Comment Period: Initial SECOFI questionnaires must be submitted within 30 working days from the publication date of this official announcement. The questionnaires are available at:

Unidad de Practicas Comerciales Internacionales
Oficialia de Partes
Insurgentes Sur No. 1940, Planta Baja
Col. Florida
01030, Mexico, D.F.

4. End of Public Comment Period: Final statements must be submitted by 14:00 hours January

24, 2001.

Products Affected: Long grain white rice under tariff code: 1006.30.01

Agency in Charge: The Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development (SECOFI),
International Commercial Practices Unit

Summary of the Resolution's Important Provisions

The Secretariat has determined that indications of price discrimination do exist and that said price discrimination allowed U.S. exporters to decrease the price of long grain white rice exported to Mexico during the period March-August 1999; said price decrease permitted the exporters to increase the volume of exports of long grain white rice to Mexico. Likewise, the Secretariat determined that indications exist that the combination of both of the above situations caused a decrease in price of the long grain white rice produced domestically; said decrease in price provoked a decrease in income from the sale of domestically produced long grain white rice. Finally, the Secretariat determined that the decrease in income to the sector producing national long grain white rice constitutes damage caused by conditions of price discrimination on imports of long grain white rice from the United States

The period of investigation for this antidumping petition is March 1, 1999 to August 31, 1999, and the Mexican Rice Council has identified four Mexican importers; Molino Harinero San Blas, S.A. de C.V.; Frijoles Mexicanos de Saltillo, S.A.; Frutas Secas Contreras, S.A. de C.V.; and Empacadora El Fresno, S.A. de C.V.; and two U.S. exporters, Producers Rice Mills, Inc.; and Riceland Foods, Inc., as responsible parties.

A full translation of the official announcement will soon be available from FAS/Mexico and USDA/FAS in Washington, D.C.

For More Information:

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Internet Connections

FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.atomexico.gob.mx> or visit our headquarter's home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGAR) can be found at www.sagar.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SECOFI) can be found at www.secofi.gob.mx These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.